

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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DRAFTED BY NEA/IAI:WBSMITHII:SKG

APPROVED BY NEA:HHAUNDERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 268108

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, US

SUBJECT: STATEMENT ON PALESTINIAN PROBLEM

1. TEXT OF STATEMENT BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS BEFORE INVESTIGATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE OF HIRC ON PALESTINIAN PROBLEM (SEPTTEL) WAS HANDED NOVEMBER 12 TO ISRAELI EMBASSY ACTING DCM BENTSUR THREE HOURS BEFORE DELIVERY ON HILL BY NEA/IAI DIRECTOR.

2. DEPARTMENT OFFICER EXPLAINED TO BENTSUR THAT SUBCOMMITTEE HAD BEEN HOLDING SERIES OF HEARINGS ON THIS SUBJECT IN RECENT WEEKS WITH VARIOUS EXPERTS AS WITNESSES. BENTSUR HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF THIS. (FYI, ISRAELI PROFESSORS ITAMAR RABINOVICH AND MORDECHAI ABIR APPEARED NOVEMBER 1.) DEPTOFF CONTINUED THAT SUBCOMMITTEE HAD REQUESTED DEPARTMENT PROVIDE WITNESS, AND LOWEST RANKING OFFICIAL POSSIBLE WAS CHOSEN, AS WE DID NOT WANT TO DRAMATIZE MATTER. IT WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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DECIDED TO MAKE STATEMENT COMPREHENSIVE BECAUSE OF RECENT

CIRCULATION IN U.S., INCLUDING CONGRESS, OF OVERSIMPLIFIED VIEWS ON PALESTINIAN PROBLEM BASED ON VERY INCOMPLETE KNOWLEDGE OF FACTS. STATEMENT WAS NOT INTENDED TO BREAK ANY NEW GROUND BUT SIMPLY TO CONSTITUTE COLLECTION IN ONE PLACE OF ALL PAST STATEMENTS ON PROBLEM BY VARIOUS U.S. OFFICIALS. ALSO, STATEMENT HAD BEEN WRITTEN WITH ISRAELI

CONCERNS IN MIND. ISRAEL WAS ONLY COUNTRY BEING PROVIDED TEXT IN ADVANCE.

3. AFTER READING TEXT, BENTSUR REMARKED IT WOULD BE FOR HIS SUPERIORS TO COMMENT ON STATEMENT, AND HIS INITIAL OBSERVATIONS WERE PERSONAL. HE THEN MADE FOLLOWING POINTS;

A. STATEMENT WAS INDEED COMPREHENSIVE AND WAS CAREFULLY WRITTEN ANALYSIS.

B. SUGGESTION IN SECOND PARAGRAPH TO EFFECT THAT PALESTINIAN ASPECT IS HEART OF ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT DID NOT EXACTLY ACCORD WITH ISRAELI GOVERNMENT'S VIEW, WHICH WAS THAT NONACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL BY ARAB STATES WAS HEART OF CONFLICT.

C. STATEMENT WAS SOMEWHAT MISLEADING IN ITS INCLUSION OF DESCRIPTION OF VIEW OF "MANY ISRAELIS" ABOUT CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PALESTINIAN SELF-EXPRESSION IN A TWO-COMMUNITY JORDAN WITH WEST BANK REJOINED TO IT. ISRAELIS HELD WIDE SPECTRUM OF VIEWS ON SUBJECT, AND WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS POSITION OF ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, AS DEFINED BY CABINET JULY 22, 1974 (TEL AVIV 4109, JULY 22, 1974), WHICH LEFT IN ABEYANCE QUESTION OF FUTURE OF WEST BANK EXCEPT TO REJECT IDEA OF INDEPENDENT WEST BANK STATE.

D. WHILE IT TRUE THAT STATEMENT WAS ANALYTICAL AND NOT POLICY DECLARATION, ITS VERY ISSUANCE HAD POLICY IMPLICATIONS. ISRAELI EMBASSY WOULD HAVE LIKED TO KNOW ABOUT IT LONGER IN ADVANCE.

4. DEPTOFF ACKNOWLEDGED BENTSUR'S POINT IN 3(BF ABOVE BUT REMINDED HIM SUBCOMMITTEE HAD NOT SOUGHT TESTIMONY ON CONFIDENTIAL

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ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT AS WHOLE BUT ONLY AS PALESTINIAN ASPECT. AS FOR BENTSUR'S POINT IN 3(C), DEPTOFF NOTED THIS SECTION OF STATEMENT WAS MEANT TO BE CATALOGUE OF PALESTINIAN AND OTHER ARAB VIEWS. IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN USEFUL TO APPEND TO STATEMENT TEXTS OF OFFICIAL POSITIONS OF ISRAELI GOVERNMENT, ARAB GOVERNMENTS, AND PALESTINE NATIONAL CHARTER, ALTHOUGH THIS WOULD HAVE MADE STATEMENT VERY LONG AND INFORMATION IN ANY CASE WAS ALREADY ACCES-

SIBLE ELSEWHERE TO SUBCOMMITTEE.

5. BENTSUR SAID HE WOULD CABLE TEXT PROMPTLY TO JERUSALEM.

6. FYI. IF POINT IN 3(C) IS MADE TO YOU, YOU MAY ALSO
SAY THAT OUR PURPOSE WAS TO GIVE A PICTURE OF THE RANGE
OF IDEAS, NOT TO PROVIDE PRECISE CATALOGUE.
KISSINGER

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